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## West Germany Problems for spies

SPYING has long been a rewarding occupation in divided Germany, but now West Germany's intelligence service is complaining of political interference.

The Federal Intelligence Service, BND, has been reared in the tradition of anti-Communist espionage. Many of its officers worked in the Nazi Wehrmacht's intelligence service on the Russian front. But since Chancellor Willy Brandt began developing his *Ostpolitik*—his pursuit of better relations with Communist Eastern Europe—things have changed. Airing their problems in the news-magazine *Der Spiegel*, BND officers say that, as a result, morale and efficiency in the 5,500-man service have started to nosedive.

It is said that the Social Democratic Government in Bonn has been trying to get the West German espionage service under its political control. Last year the SPD appointed one of its officials as vice-president of BND. Since then, says *Der Spiegel*, there has been a decline in co-operation between West Germany's spies and both the American CIA and Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (SIS).

Allegedly, Western Allied agents now suspect that their German counterparts are being influenced by political bias into gathering worthless intelligence reports on Eastern Europe. And for a long time the West Ger-

mans have provided NATO with much of its information on the East.

It is also claimed that Brandt's Chancellery has called for and obtained lists of names of BND's intelligence operatives. One BND official is quoted as saying that no other intelligence service has ever been in such a situation. 'Names of our agents,' he says, 'are collected from the safes at BND headquarters outside Munich and sent to Bonn—the very place where hundreds of Eastern spies are on the loose.'

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